member, from a normal extended position to a retracted position in response to insertion of the spout into the opening, the sliding sleeve member having a radially extending annular seal to seal the opening when the spout is inserted, vapor recovery passage means in the spout, the passage means having an inlet at the outward end of the spout and an outlet in the container, the sliding sleeve member being adapted to close the outlet port and the inlet of the vapor recovery passage means when in its normal extended position and to open the outlet port and the inlet for the vapor recovery passage when in its retracted position, and spring means biasing the sliding sleeve member to its normal extended position,

characterized in that the vapor recovery passage means comprises axially extending passageways defined between the exterior surface of the inner sleeve member and the interior surface of the sliding sleeve member.

11. A vapor recovery spout as defined in claim 10 further characterized by a check valve for closing the outlet of the vapor recovery passage means, the valve comprising a flexible annular element secured to the inward end of the inner sleeve member and extending radially outward therefrom, the annular element being movable between a normally closed position, closing the outlet of the vapor recovery passage means and an axially flexed, open position, to permit vapor to flow into the container.
12. The spout of claim 10 wherein the fuel container is not vented.
13. The spout of claim 10 wherein the sliding sleeve incorporates an annular flange on its outer surface thereby providing means for seating and sealing the sliding sleeve against the tank opening and thereby transferring the spring force acting on the sliding sleeve to the tank opening as the user pushes the spout into the tank opening thereby opening both the shutoff valve and the vapor recovery passage means.
14. The spout of claim 13 wherein the flange is provided with a resilient surface facing and seating on the tank opening, the resilient facing providing sufficient yield to compensate for misalignment as the spout is pushed into the tank opening.

15. The spout of claim 13 wherein the spring force biasing the sliding sleeve provides sufficient initial resistance to internal tank pressure acting against the flange to contain any sudden initial surges of fuel into the tank when the container has an internal pressure as high as 10 PSIG thereby eliminating the need to vent the container vapor into the atmosphere prior to filling the tank.

16. The spout of claim 10 wherein the outer surface of the inner sleeve member incorporates a plurality of longitudinal ribs thereby ensuring concentricity between the inner sleeve member and the sliding sleeve member, the spaces between the ribs forming a plurality of vapor passage means.

17. The spout of claim 16 wherein the vapor recovery passage means extend into a contiguous annular space formed in the inner sleeve the vapor recovery passage means providing sufficient flow capacity to ensure a suitable rate of flow of vapor from the tank to the container to maintain the pressure within the portable container nearly equal to the pressure within the tank thereby allowing rapid flow of fuel from the spout to the tank.

18. The spout of claim 17 wherein the discharge end of the vapor recovery passage means is closed by means of a flexible disk, the flexible disk being contained at its inner diameter in an annular groove provided in the inner sleeve, the flexible disk then providing a barrier over which the fuel is directed into the fuel flow passage of the inner sleeve member while excluding the fuel from the vapor recovery passage means when the container is tipped to deliver fuel to the tank, the flexible disk then lifting with suitable ease to allow said suitable rate of flow of the vapor displaced from the tank into the container.

19. The spout of claim 16 wherein the outer end portion of the sliding sleeve has an interior diameter which fits slidably over the longitudinal ribs on the inner sleeve member while the remaining portion of the sliding sleeve has an interior diameter that fits slidably over a larger exterior diameter on the inner end of the inner sleeve, the shoulders formed on both the inner sleeve and the sliding sleeve by this geometry then engaging when the shutoff valve is opened, the fit between the sliding sleeve

and the larger exterior diameter of the inner sleeve being provided with sealing means to prevent leakage of fuel or vapor into the atmosphere.

20. The spout of claim 10 wherein the inlet to the vapor passageways is positioned to allow the rising fuel level in the tank opening to block the vapor passageways at a suitable level above the fuel discharge outlet of the spout thereby preventing further displacement of vapor from the tank, the remaining vapor sealed within the tank opening then being compressed by the force of the head of fuel remaining in the container and thereby stopping further fuel flow into the tank.

21. The spout of claim 20 wherein the spring biasing the sliding sleeve maintains the compressed vapor pressure while the spout is removed from the tank opening thereby preventing fuel flow until the shutoff valve closes.